(b) whether Unit Trust of India Bank Limited has started spending money to refurbish the new premises without having obtained a completion/occupancy Certificate from the Competent Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE-PATIL): (a) and (b) UTI Bank Limited is a private sector bank and Government have no role in matters relating to refurbishing of their branches.

Shifting of main branch of UTI Bank Limited

3159. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Delhi Main Branch of Unit Trust of India Bank Limited in Connaught Place is shifting part of its operations to a neighbouring building at a rent of about Rs. 220/- per sq. ft. which will be more than twice the rent of the existing premises; and

(b) whether the shifting would result in a loss of more than rupees five crores over the next decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE-PATIL): (a) and (b) UTI Bank Limited is a private sector bank and Government have no role in matters relating to acquiring/shifting of their branches. Further, hiring of premises by banks is a contract between the bank and the landlord and such decisions are taken by banks based on commercial considerations.

Shortage of coins in Gujarat

3160. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of coins in Gujarat;

(b) what is the annual allotment of coins for 2000-2001;

(c) what is the demand of State;

(d) the quantum of imported coins issued to Gujarat;

(e) what action has been taken by RBI to meet the increasing demand of coins in Gujarat;

(f) how many regional offices in RBI are authorised to issue coins in the country;

(g) whether Government have asked all the regional offices to meet the demand; and

(h) if so, the details of coins supplied by them to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE-PATIL): (a) There are some reports about shortage of coins in certain parts of the Gujarat State.

(b) During the year 2000-2001, 307 million pieces (MPCs) of coins were supplied to the Gujarat State.

(c) The Regional Office of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at Ahmedabad has placed an indent for supply of 1383 MPCs of coins during the year 2001-2002, based on the estimated requirement of coins received from the currency chests/small coin depots under its jurisdiction.

(d) During the financial year 2000-2001, 110 MPCs of imported rupee coins were supplied to the Gujarat State. Further, during the current financial year upto June, 2001, 55 MPCs of imported coins have already been supplied to the State.

(e) RBI has taken a number of steps to meet the increasing demand of coins in the Gujarat State During the first 3 months of the current year *i.e.* upto June, 30, 2001, 156.80 MPCs of coins or 51.07% of the last year's supply, have already been supplied to the Gujarat State. RBI offices at New Delhi and Kolkata have also been directed to provide special remittances to Ahmedabad to replenish the stock of coins without any delay. RBI's Regional Office at Ahmedabad is ensuring regular supply of coins to various currency chest branches of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in different parts of the State. Mobile van services have also been commissioned in important cities of the Gujarat State to facilitate retrieval of the soiled/mutilated notes in exchange of coins.

(f) At present, 19 Regional Offices/Branches of the RBI are authorised to issue coins in the country.

(g) and (h) Every Regional Office of RBI has a well defined jurisdiction for supply of coins. In case of any special requirement from any region, RBI also directs its other Regional Offices to send the remittances to meet the special requirement of the particular area. To meet the increase in demand for coins of the Gujarat State, two Regional Offices of the RBI *viz* New Delhi and Kolkata have been directed to send remittances to the State. During the current year upto July, 2001, the Regional Offices of RBI at New Delhi and Kolkata have supplied 10 MPCs and 24 MPCs of coins respectively to the Gujarat State.

Bar of Bank employees from joining as a board member

3161. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to bar employees of Public Sector Banks from Joining bank boards as shareholders representatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the names of such board members in the public sector banks at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE-PATIL): (a) and (b) In conformity to the provisions of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 and State Bank of India (Subsidiary) Act, 1959, Central Government by notification dated 29th December, 2000 amended clause 10 of the Nationalised Banks (Management & Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme, 1970/80 prescribing thereon a disqualification for a person being appointed as Director on the Board of the nationalised banks if he holds any office of profit under any nationalised bank or State Bank of India or any Subsidiary of State Bank of India except for holding the post of a whole-time Director. In accordance with the above provisions, an